

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: UNCG – Office of Research Services

Application ID: 13AC145772

Program Name: AmeriCorps ACCESS Project

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The University of North Carolina Greensboro clearly defines the needs faced by non-English speaking immigrants and refugees within North Carolina's culture. These needs include unpreparedness for employment within the culture, a requirement for language translation services, and sensitivity to the natural disasters that may affect North Carolina residents as documented by the United States Census, academic journals, and the Pew Research Center.

(+) The applicant cited numerous credible sources supporting the stated need in three areas: Economic Opportunity, Disaster Services, Capacity Building and Healthy Futures. According to the United States 2010 Census, North Carolina is the primary resettlement site for tens of thousands of refugees in the last decade, therefore demonstrating that the utilization of 64 AmeriCorps members would be beneficial.

(+) The applicant demonstrated the need for bilingual AmeriCorps members to be selected and utilized in meeting immigrants needs for job attainment, providing culturally competent services including case management, contacting potential employers, developing employment plans, skills assessments, reviewing work/educational history, obtaining necessary documents, transportation, interviews, resume writing, cover letters, and computer skills by citing various credible sources, such as the 2010 United States Census Bureau.

(+) The applicant has implemented evidence-based dashboard metrics for tracking AmeriCorps member activities accompanied by job placement outcome statistics.

(+) Performance targets were developed via research, past performance, and evaluations with partnering agencies. Each AmeriCorps Cross Cultural Education Service Systems Program (ACCESS) focus area has specific, measurable, and realistic goals that are clearly identified. The applicant plans to use various tracking mechanisms, monthly logs, surveys, statistics, and tests /assessments to document the program's impact.

(+) The Office of Refugee Resettlement Match Grant program, Department of Health and Human Services reported a self-sufficiency success rate of 71% for eligible clients in FY 2011 using interventions that consisted of case

management, employment services, and language acquisition. Separately, the use of Standards of Practice for Interpreters in Health Care ensures quality of learning outcomes. The Urban Institute report provides authoritative support showing the capacity benefits of AmeriCorps member to nonprofits.

(-) The applicant did not provide sufficient information on interpreters training attainment rates in the narrative; this is an impact issue.

(-) The applicant did not indicate how many non-English speaking immigrants and refugees in North Carolina require the services of this program. The proposal indicates 800,000 Hispanics reside in North Carolina, but does not indicate how many require translation services to obtain or keep employment, nor how many are unfamiliar with natural disasters that may affect North Carolina.

(-) The applicant did not indicate how its 64 Members will effectively provide these services to non-English speaking immigrants and refugees, nor does the applicant indicate how many of its 64 Members will be devoted to providing each of these services.